

Health Care Student Report –Swansea NHS trust– April 2005

1. Introduction

This report was produced from feedback received from students from the School of Health Care Sciences who have been on placement at the Swansea NHS trust during the current academic year.

2. Morriston Hospital – *Feedback from Physiotherapy Students*

Students reported that the first day of their placements was very well organised, they were given tour, a timetable and induction on the first morning. The students were introduced to the student coordinator on the first day, who gave an insight into what was expected from the placement. Students were welcomed by all staff, not just the physiotherapists. Unfortunately one student reported that they were left without a timetable, they felt that they were intruding into an established team.

2.1 Academic

Students found the teaching to be interesting and of a high standard, with provision for at least one hour of formal teaching a day. Students reported that there was a good balance between teaching and time for self directed learning. The teaching was both informal and formal, the informal ward based teaching was given by doctors as well as physiotherapists. Students were also able to attend in service training and external talks. One student reported that the relaxed atmosphere meant that they were able to ask questions without feeling foolish. Students found that there were lots of opportunities to get involved and also to view other elements of treatment, for example some were able to attend theatre with the patient. Students reported that they were able to feel part of the team. One student felt that they were pushed to learn more, but in hindsight this was very helpful.

2.2 Facilities

Computers – Computers were available within department for student use, although some students were unaware that they could use them. One student reported that they were banned from the IT facilities within the library. The lack of internet access gave some problems, especially for students that were trying to work on their dissertation.

Common room – One student was welcomed into the departmental common room, they found this to be a good chance to meet other staff, however this tended to be busy as it was only just large enough for staff. Other students reported poor facilities; there was no real common room or canteen where students could relax away from clinical areas.

Library – Students reported that the library was a good facility, the opening hours were suitable and the staff were very helpful.

Accommodation – Students reported that the accommodation was reasonable. One student had to share a room even though there were spare rooms within the accommodation. Another student reported that their room was dirty when they arrived. A couple of students mentioned problems with the heating system, their rooms were constantly cold.

2.3 Overall

Students really enjoyed their placements at Morriston and found them to be valuable learning experiences. The teaching was of a very high standard. Unfortunately for a couple of students the placement was let down by the accommodation. Many of the students said that they would be happy to work at Morriston in the future.

3. Singleton Hospital

Reports were received from one ODP student, two radiotherapy students and a number of physiotherapy students.

3.1 Academic

ODP – The first day of the placement was a slight problem for the student as no one in the department knew who they were expecting. They were given a very brief tour of the fire exits. The student found the placement to be a little disorganised, a plan of what the students were meant to be doing arrived during the 3rd week of the placement.

Radiotherapy – One of the students was given a full introduction to the site on the first day of the placement. However the other student found their first day to be extremely disorganised; the student was left sitting around for a period of time. They found the radiotherapy department staff to be very helpful, and willing to explain all aspects of treatment to the student. The students also praised the regular teaching sessions held by the clinical tutor.

Physiotherapy – The students reported very good teaching, with lots of opportunities for them to get involved. Unfortunately one student's respiratory placement was let down by staff shortages. One student missed the first day due to illness and wasn't given the tour that everyone else had received. This meant that the student was unsure of the location of the library, how to get a parking permit etc. One student suffered from having part time clinical educators, which meant that the placement wasn't as well organised, they didn't gain as much from the placement as other students.

3.2 Facilities

Common room – Students were not able to use this area 'out of hours' which was frustrating when working evenings or nights. There was computer access and a printer available in common room, although students reported problems with being granted passwords, it took 2 weeks to sort out computer access for one radiotherapy student. A computer was also available for within department for physiotherapy students.

Library – Physiotherapy students reported that it was a slow process to get hold of a library card. However radiotherapy students who were able to get cards early in their placement found it to be useful and efficient.

Parking – Students found it difficult to park on site as they had to get a permit at the start of their placement.

Accommodation – Students were generally not happy with the standard of accommodation. Some students found it difficult to study and also to sleep because of noise due to very thin walls between rooms. The kitchen facilities were not very good, although this may have been due to other residents, rather than a lack of cleaning. One student also reported a problem with cleanliness at the start of their block.

3.3 Overall

Students enjoyed their placements at Singleton, unfortunately they were let down by the accommodation in places. A more complete induction process and preparation for the students' arrival could help to alleviate some of the problems experienced with parking permits, computer logins and library cards.

4. Hill House – Feedback from Physiotherapy Students

Students enjoyed this placement; they found the staff to be very helpful and friendly. The students were given a good induction to the site including fire evacuation and safety procedures. There was a high level of support and encouragement from staff, the students were challenged, but provided assistance where necessary. The placements were very well organised, timetables were provided. Teaching was mostly informal; there were lots of chances to get involved. Students also had a named physiotherapist to report back to which gave the block some structure. The students had problems trying to access the library. There was only a small library facility at Hill House and as there was no 'out of hours' access at Singleton they were unable to use the library. The students lived in the accommodation at Singleton, the problems they reported are mentioned above. As no transport was provided between Singleton and Hill House the students had to walk between sites.

5. Gorseinon – Feedback from one Physiotherapy Student

The student was made to feel very welcome on their arrival at the hospital; they were given a brief tour and an explanation of how the department operated. Each week a very good teaching session was given on a pre-arranged topic, the student found this very helpful. The student found that there were lots of opportunities to handle patients and to be part of the team. There were a number of suitable books available within the department that the student was able to use. The student stayed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation whilst on placement, this was suitable and close to the hospital. The student commented that they really enjoyed the placement; they found the clinical educator to be prepared and approachable.

6. Conclusion

A wide variety of placements are provided by for students within the Swansea Trust. Although this report by no means covers all of the courses and placements within the Trust, it shows views of a wide range of students who have taken the time to reply. For the most the feedback has been very positive, with students gaining a valuable learning experience within the Trust. Many students commented that they would be interested in applying for jobs within the trust in the future.

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